

### **City of Manistee Sewer Televising - Toilet “Burping”**

The City of Manistee is currently performing sewer cleaning and televising activities as part of their current SAW Grant program. The primary purpose of cleaning and televising is to assess the condition of the sewer system. This work will be conducted all across the City to obtain a representative sample of the sewer system’s condition. It is possible this sewer cleaning televising operation could take place on your street. The exact time this work will be completed is difficult to estimate since the amount of cleaning and the size of pipes being cleaned varies throughout the City. The following photos show the typical equipment that will be used for cleaning and televising the sewers.



**Televising Truck**



**Sewer Cleaning Truck**

While this work routinely has limited impacts to the residents and commercial owners connected to the sewer being cleaned, there are instances where “burping” can occur. Burping is the occasional expelling of air through a toilet or other bathroom fixture. This can result in some toilet water discharging onto the walls or floors. The reason that burping can occur is due to the air velocities generated from the sewer cleaning equipment. When pressurized water is used to propel cleaning equipment, high wind speeds are generated. In most cases, the air escapes out of the sewer main and or out of the ventilation system in the laterally connected plumbing systems of residents and property owners. In some instances, when the air cannot escape, it migrates through toilets and other bathroom fixtures. This is primarily due to unvented plumbing connections or restricted ventilation in the home or business. In other instances, burping can occur when the sewer has a very shallow bury depth, is of a small diameter (6”-12”), and the laterally connected plumbing systems have a very short connection distance from the sewer to the building / home. Burping typically occurs only 1-2% of the time during sewer cleaning operations.

The City’s sewer cleaning and televising Contractor, Plummer’s Environmental Service, is making every effort, to minimize these occurrences. Should you experience a “burping” incident, please contact Plummer’s Environmental Service, Spicer Group Inc., and/or the City of Manistee Department of Public Works for cleanup assistance.

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